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The Navhind Times

Drive Electric Vehicle To Reduce Pollution

THE Union transport ministry's donation of an electric bus to Parliament symbolizes the growing interest in the government quarters to promote electric and hybrid automobiles in the country. The number of electric and hybrid cars has been consistently increasing in the US and Europe. Demand for electric vehicles is growing around the world fairly rapidly, according to new analysis from the Centre for Solar Energy and Hydrogen Research. More than 320,000 new electric vehicles were registered in 2014, bringing the total in the world to 740,000 vehicles. The US is a clear leader with a growth rate of 69%, bringing the total number of electric vehicles to 290,000 in the country. The figures suggest that roughly one in every three or so electric vehicles in the world is running on US roads. Quite interestingly, electric vehicles are becoming popular in China too, the year 2014 recording 54,000 registrations. That number actually represents a 120% growth rate in China, beating out the US, and bringing the total number of electric vehicles in the country up to 100,000. Japan was not very far behind with a 45% growth rate, bringing total numbers up to 110,000 units.

World is slowly switching to electric and hybrid cars, automobile manufacturers in India have gone ahead and introduced electric and hybrid vehicles in the hope that sooner or later customers in India would prefer cars that are clean and green

There is a growing consciousness and thrust to switch to electric or hybrid cars (hybrid cars can run either on battery or diesel/petrol) across the world because these vehicles are less polluting and thrifter. However, they have not captured the imagination of Indian customers yet. One of the reasons cited is that they are more expensive to buy. Also, their maintenance cost is higher compared to petrol/diesel vehicles. Indian vehicle owners might prefer LPG and CNG as alternate fuel rather than electric energy. However, as the world is slowly switching to electric and hybrid cars, automobile manufacturers in India have gone ahead and introduced electric and hybrid vehicles in the hope that sooner or later customers in India would prefer cars that are clean and green. Among these manufacturers are BMW, Toyota, Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra. Five electric/hybrid cars made by these makers are available in India. The attitude of the automobile manufacturers to electric and hybrid cars is quite in contrast to their attitude to the flexi-fuel cars which blends petrol with ethanol, and which is being aggressively patronized by Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari. The reason is simple. The manufacture and availability of ethanol in plenty and across the country are issues still in dark shadows, whereas battery is the commonest and cheapest thing to get for electric and hybrid cars.

Only a few days ago, an interesting piece of news came from Pune that the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has joined hands with the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) to develop batteries for passenger cars sourcing technology used to power spacecraft. The VSSC will design and develop car batteries and offer the technology to automobile companies for mass production. K Sivan, director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, says the concept for automobile batteries is the same as those used for space vehicles. Now with the ARAI collaboration, it will be tested for use in cars. Eventually, the technology will be passed on to a mass manufacturer when complementary technology aspects and volumes will determine affordability. Local manufacturing will bring down the cost to less than a tenth of imported batteries. Electric and hybrid cars could become more affordable with the cost of batteries coming down, should the technology succeed. China is the world leader in battery production, while no such batteries are currently made in India.

Electric and hybrid cars are catching up in other countries because their governments have put supportive policies in place. The countries that have no supportive policies are witnessing weaker growth. In recent months, state-sponsored incentives in Delhi and Karnataka have pushed up demand for electric cars and hybrids. The Maharashtra government has also announced incentives. There is a positive growth in demand for electric and hybrid cars in Delhi, Bengaluru and Pune. The Centre offers incentives of up to Rs 29,000 for electric and hybrid motorcycles, Rs 33,000-Rs 61,000 for three wheelers and Rs 1.38 lakh for cars. The central government has an initiative called FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) to encourage sales of electric and hybrid cars. Under the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan, the government will spend around Rs 795 crore over the next two years as incentives to hybrid and electric vehicles manufacturers. Slowly and steadily the government's supportive policies and growth in awareness about reducing pollution, together with lower prices would boost attractions for electric and hybrid cars in the country.

The world's biggest power is the youth and beauty of a woman. - Chanakya

Knowledge is light; it illuminates and reveals the nature of reality. - Paramahansa Yogananda

Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man. -Swami Vivekananda

Cultivation of bamboo does not need much expenditure and it can come up on any type of soil

Welcoming Bamboo Crusader Kamesh Salam



Nandkumar M Kamat is a doctorate in microbiology, a scientist and science writer

BY NANDKUMAR M KAMAT

THERE is an Asian saying: "A man is born in a bamboo cradle and goes away in a bamboo coffin. Everything in between is possible with bamboo!" A list of one thousand products is available on <http://www.guaduabamboo.com/uses/products-made-from-bamboo>. Bamboo, a non wood forest product, is considered Green Gold.

Kamesh Salam, the Founder and Executive Director, South Asia Bamboo Foundation, former president, World Bamboo Organisation, founder of World Bamboo Day, and Co Founder of Bamboo Global Summit is on visit of Goa to from January 15 and would deliver a talk on Bamboo, the green Gold at the Surendrabab Timblo auditorium of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industries, on Monday, January 18 at 3.30pm. This interaction is organized by Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) to educate people on bamboo biodiversity and its propagation in Goa. Bamboo is an indispensable part of landscape of Western Ghats and Goa and integral part of Goa's culture.

Ancient village communities in Goa carefully planted thick bamboo groves as bioshields to break the energy of winds and to provide useful building materials. Village artisans made mattresses, baskets, containers and many useful things from bamboo. Flutes made from Bamboo were very popular as ethnomusicological blow instruments in Goa. In archery and hunting bows and arrows made from bamboo were employed. Angling and sport fishing also used fishing rods made from bamboo. Bamboos were employed for biofencing, as scaffolds, for erecting pandals. Many mud houses incorporated bamboos as reinforcement.

Bamboos are also used as indoor ornamental species and for beautiful landscaping. Tender bamboo shoots "quills" harvested during monsoon were consumed plentifully. Food historian K T Achaya mentions use of tender bamboo leaves as edible item in 'Ramayana' and extract of green bamboo stems by Jain monks. The people in Kurga/Kodagu produce Baimblay a bamboo shoot dish. Bamboo rice or grains of Bamboo are used to produce 'rajannaakki' a royal dish.

Cultivation of bamboo doesn't need

much expenditure and it can come up on any type of soil. Bamboo called Green Gold and non wood forest product of future has huge potential in Goa especially in urban forestry, agroforestry, landscaping for ecotourism, ecofriendly architecture and backward integration for bamboo based industries. Therefore we need to welcome the initiative of GSBB to invite Kamesh Salam, a skilled Bamboo management Consultant with 25 years experience in the bamboo sector. He has tremendous experience in bamboo processing, skill development, capacity building, planning. Kamesh is a machinery and development strategies expert. He has rich experience at management level with the community in development work in the bamboo and rattan processing and manufacturing industries. From 2008 to 2010, Kamesh was president of World Bamboo Organization, (WBO) based at Boston, USA, an NPO to facilitate the exchange of information from around the world on the environmental, socioeconomic, biological and cultural aspects of bamboo. From 2004 for seven years he had served as Director of Cane and Bamboo Technology Center, (CBTC), India while also acting as technical coordinator, Bamboo Technology Support Group for National Bamboo Mission for North East India, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal for the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation, Government of India. Kamesh contributed handsomely as Member, National Apex/Steering Committee of National Bamboo Mission Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India for five years and offered consultancy to UNIDO in Ghana, Timor Leste, Ethiopia, and Uganda. He was Consultant to Royal Government of Bhutan. Government of India gave him opportunity to promote Bamboo in North East and FICCI nominated him on North East Advisory Committee. Kamesh needs to be credited for organization of VIII World Bamboo Congress 2009 at Bangkok, Thailand. He promoted the idea of "World Bamboo Day Celebrations" on September 18 since 2009. He organized Global Bamboo Summit at 10th World Bamboo Congress at Damyang, south Korea. UNIDO appreciated his relentless work to champion Bamboo and supported BAMFEST and BAMTECH in North East India and SE Asia and Af-

rica. As demonstrated by Bamboo and Cane craftsmen from North Eastern states of India, there is huge potential for Bamboo in handicrafts.

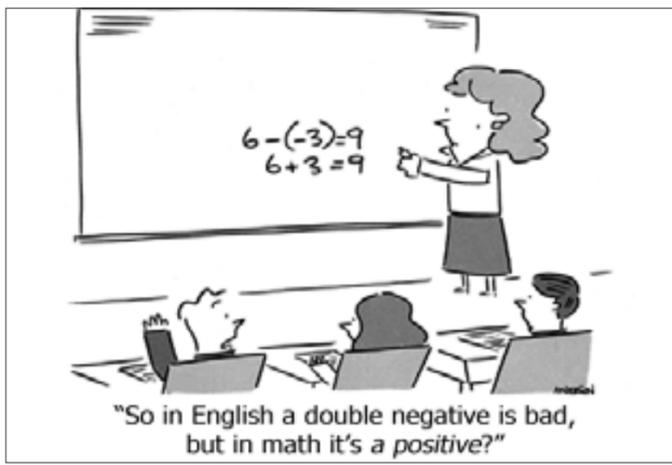
Kamesh worked as Member of All India Handicraft Board of Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India and on Board of Director, North East Handicrafts and Handloom Dev Corpn. Ltd. (NEHHDC). He was tasked with preparation of master plans on Bamboo development for National Bamboo Mission of India besides for Government of Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Republic of Timor Leste, Royal Government of Bhutan and other clients. He understood the need for attracting more investment in Bamboo sector and organized an Investmeet on South Asia on Bamboo during the IX World Bamboo Congress at Antwerp, Belgium in 2012. He came out with an illustrated book 'GREEN GOLD' as chief editor for National Bamboo Mission and contributed effectively to promote bamboo with more than 200 publications. He has been involved in organization of Bamboo Policy Workshops in Kochi, Kerala and Bhopal, MP in past two years. It can be seen from his accomplishments that here is an expert which state like Goa which respects, uses and relishes Bamboo needs as a dependable guide.

GSBB has sent invitations to community biodiversity committees established in several villages. These committees should not remain on paper. The tribals of Goa have a lot of knowledge about traditional uses of Bamboo. Therefore the department of tribal welfare and semi government agencies likes Goa Forest Development Corporation need to focus on tribal areas to promote cultivation of many useful species of Bamboo under the guidance of Kamesh Salam.

Goa can also benefit additionally as Bamboo acts as a huge carbon sink to mitigate global warming. If more than ten thousand hectares of land areas including khazan embankments, eroded hill slopes, perimeter of industrial estates, mining areas are brought under large scale Bamboo cultivation then the Green Gold can create many new and sustainable job opportunities in Goa. State government, NGOs, farmers, mining companies, hoteliers and corporate sector of Goa should fully utilize the knowledge and expertise of Green Gold crusader Kamesh Salam.

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THE PUNCH LINE



FROM THE NT INBOX

Government on Private Forests

With reference to private forest in Goa, our state is one of the smallest having its total area of 3,000 odd sqkm of which 1,000 sqkm area is a forest cover as such we don't need any more land to be declared as private forest instead preserve the existing forests. Government should spend tax payers money not in identifying private forest, instead it should recover the revenue from forest land used in extracting ore and punish those involve in the act. With due respect to the North Goa committee headed by V T Thomas and South Goa committee by F X Araujo both retired forest department officials of the work going for the last two years; as it is because of a Supreme Court ruling which is a unique concept existing in Goa. It is the cruel act of the Government who said that they will send all involved in

Bandekar's blessing to arthritis patients

THE Goa Legislative Assembly during the just concluded winter session congratulated Dr Shivanand Bandekar head of orthopaedics department of Goa Medical College at Bambolim and his team of doctors for successfully performing an advanced knee-implant surgery called 'attune'. It is understood that it was due to the efforts of Dr Bandekar that GMC hospital became the first government hospital in the country to perform the advanced surgery. It must be said that Dr Bandekar who is among the best orthopedic surgeons in the state, has been a blessing to numerous patients with arthritis and other orthopaedic ailments. He has performed numerous surgeries and lent a healing touch to most of the patients. The testimony is there for all to see. OPD 7 (Orthopaedic OPD) at GMC is crowded with patients, both from Goa and the neighbouring states on his days of OPD. Patients from 4.00 am queue up to get appointment. The government should think in terms of conferring an award on the doctor in recognition of his tremendous contribution in curing patients suffering from various ailments of bones and treating accident cases which are incidentally on the rise.

ADELMO FERNANDES, VASCO

the illegal act to jail but now they are protecting. Protect the Goans its land and not the people who destroyed the land, time has come they must amend the act as they have done to the coconut tree, don't

blame the Supreme Court. It's time to act and not to work, the BJP Government should stop blaming their predecessors.

MICHAEL BENY DACOSTA, PANAJI

Government on Anti-Coconut Tree

JOAO C PEREIRA, MAJORDA

IT was neither surprising nor shocking to see Dinar Barros and his bunch of associates under the un-born awaiting registration association under the title coconut farmers association, addressing the press in support of the Government on anti-coconut tree, pro builders and industrial lobby policy, which is contrary to the sentiments of a true Goan. The coconut tree being a secular tree has been adored, cared and planted, irrespective of religions for ages, which Dinar, associates, BJP Govt and their allies might be ignorant of. The Coconut tree symbolizes the true identity of Goa across the globe. Our families have grown coconut trees for generations having owned properties across various talukas and was very much disturbed to read the contents of their press conference and their warped idea/pictures put across about the coconut trees, aligning with Government thinking. It appears that the sole purpose of addressing the media as the secretary of un-born association is solely to get huge benefits and gratification from the Govt for lending their support to Govt anti-Coconut tree policy. The impression being created by Dinar is that this policy is well accepted by landlords and coconut farmers across Goa, that is always been the style of the RSS led BJP Govt propaganda. The present arrogant BJP Govt through their MLAs are not ready to accept anything wrong done. The Goan intelligent and vibrant voter will show this arrogant BJP MLAs and their allies who have supported this anti-coconut tree policy of the Govt, their true place in soon coming 2017 elections. People like Dinar have not contributed in any manner towards the conservation and promoting of coconut trees in his own village of Betalbatim and have no standing whatsoever among the lovers of coconut trees in Goa and from his own friends, whom I have spoken to. I request Dinar Barros and associates to address the public during the 2017 election campaign in support of BJP the anti-coconut tree policy along with all other anti-Goan policy, starting from your home village of Betalbatim. I request every Goan to ignore such press conferences made by such people in future and to be taken as pinch of salt, playing in the hands of Government and their Allies.